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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/002,448 Confirmation No. 3577
Applicant(s) : Richard Allen Lundgard, Robert D. Mussell, Michael Anthony Jackson
Filed : November 15, 2001
TC/A.U. : 1714
Examiner : Patrick D. Niland
Title : DISPERSIONS OF SOLID, SEMI-SOLID, AND LIQUID RESINS
AND A METHOD OF MAKING THE SAME

Docket No. : 61107A
Customer No. : 00109

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

RESPONSE

Responsive to the Official Action dated November 7, 2003, please amend the specification and claims as detailed hereinafter and reconsider the claims in view of the arguments presented hereinafter.

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-15 are pending in this application. All of the claims have been rejected as being anticipated by WO 97/45476 (Choudhery) under 35 USC §102(b) or, in the alternative, as being obvious over Choudhery under 35 USC §103(a). More particularly, the Examiner asserts that Choudhery discloses the instantly claimed method in the abstract; page 2, lines 26-28; page 3 lines 1-27, and page 4, lines 1-10. Applicants disagree with the Examiner's rejection for the following reasons.

The key difference between Applicant's invention and those disclosed by Choudhery is that Choudhery teaches to mix the different components together in an extruder in the presence of water to form the dispersion. In contrast, Applicants decouple the dispersion process from the melt extrusion process by use of a hybrid system. The result of the decoupling is to provide optimal use of the extruder for the polymer, thus reducing the cost of preparing the dispersion. Second, if surfactant is used, the hybrid system provides for optimal conveyance of surfactant in the resin in

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